Inclusion of Cooch Behar District in NREG scheme

390. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from Government of West Bengal to include Cooch Behar district in the first phase of NREG Scheme; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Request had been received from Government of West Bengal for inclusion of Cooch Behar under NREGS. However, Government has decided to extend NREGA to all the remaining rural districts in the country including Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008.

PMGSY in Almora District of Uttarakhand

†391. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dholadevi-Chil Motor Road, Maniagar-Khola Motor Road, Ati-Gauli-Dasili Motor Road, Petshal-Bamanswal Motor Road, Gurudabanj-Chani-Bamanswal and Cupcoat-Bamanswal Motor Road in district Almora (Uttarakhand) have been selected udner Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana and have been sanctioned and got approval for construction by the Ministry of Forest;

(b) if so, when this approval has been given;

(c) whether the construction work on these roads has been taken up; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and by when the construction work of these roads would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The State Government of Uttarakhand has informed that (i) Maniagar-Khola, (ii) Chausal to Chil, (iii) Petsal-Bamanswal to Kapkot and (iv) ODR-08 (Gurudabanj) to Chami-Archoli Motor Roads have been sanctioned in October, 2006 under Phase-V of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The road mentioned as Dholadevi-Chil is sanctioned as Chaushala to Chit (Chil) Motor Road. For Cupcoat-Bamanswal Motor Road, the name of the sanctioned road is Petsal-Bamanswal to Kapkot. For Gurudabanj-Chami-Bamanswal, the name of the sanctioned road is ODR-08 (Gurudabanj) to Chami-Archoli Motor Road. Petsal is already connected by road as per Core Network, Bamanswal will be connected by Petsal-Bamanswal-Kapkot road. The tenders for these roads have been obtained. Ati-Gauli-Dasili Motor road has been proposed under PMGSY Phase-VI.

(c) and (d) the constructions work on these roads have not been taken up as the forest land for the roads mentioned at (ii), (iii) and (iv) above have been transferred in September, 2007. Forest land for the road mentioned in (i) above has not yet been transferred.

Non-utilisation of funds for rural development

392. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the States have failed to utilize the rural growth funds provided by the Centre;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Rs. 1405 crore of the release from Government has remained unspent with the implementing agencies; and

(c) if so, what are the suggestions made and what action has been taken by the Central Government against these States, who have failed to utilize the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The progress reports received from the State Governments and Union Territories, show utilization of 80.78% of available funds under major rural development programmes during 2006-07.

(c) The Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of its programmes, including utilization of funds. If the utilization of funds is found to be less with respect to specified limit, proportionate deduction is made from the release during the succeeding year.

Status of all-weather roads under Bharat Nirman Programme

393. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages are to be connected with all-weather roads, under the Bharat Nirman Programme and by when;

(b) what is the status of these targets;

(c) whether it is a fact that the current status is on track with the targets;

(d) if not, the reason therefor;

(e) whether the target achievement is being accelerated;

(f) whether the target dates proposed to be revised; and

(g) if so, the anticipated cost over runs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVLEOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Under rural roads component of Bharat Nirman, 66,802 habitations were to be connected with all-weather roads by 2009.

(b) and (c) During the period 2005-07, 13831 habitations were connected against the target of 23164. Upto September, 2007, 16444 habitations have been connected with all-weather roads and projects for connecting 16968 habitations are in progress.

(d) The reasons for not achieving the targets were inadequate institutional and contracting capacity, shortage of materials, non-availability of land etc.

(e) All efforts are being taken including enhancement of institutional and contracting capacity in the States to accelerate the pace of implementation of projects under the programme.

(f) and (g) Target dates of the programme have not been revised.

Prevailing upon World Bank for lending support to poor districts of Vidarbha

394. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that World Bank is lending support to Bihar with US $ 63 Million to a Livelihoods Project, named JEEVIKA to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor in 4,000 villages in poorest districts like Khagaria, etc., directly benefiting about 2.9 million people belonging to 590,000 households; and

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to prevail upon the World Bank or Asian